

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

EUR-12 AF-10 HA-05 /106 W

-----104119 250509Z /10

R 241850Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3114

UNCLAS ASUNCION 2095

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, PA

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL CONCERNING US FOREIGN POLICY

1. ASUNCION'S LEADING DAILY "ABC" TITLED ITS SUNDAY, MAY 21  
EDITORIAL "DOES THE WEST NEED A NEW LEADER?" THE COLUMN FOCUSED ON TH  
E

FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES TO MEET THE COMMUNIST CHALLENGE POSED  
BY THE SOVIET-CUBAN OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA THEREBY BRINING THE WEST  
CLOSER TO THE RIST OF A GLOBAL CONFLICT. IT SEES THE UNITED STATES  
AS A WEAKENED ALLY WHO NO LONGER CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO SHOULDER ITS  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, VIS-A-VIS COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, DUE TO  
ITS UNCERTAIN AND OFTEN VACILATING LEADERSHIP.

2. THE ARTICLE FAULTS THE UNITED STATES FOR PERMITTING THIS  
COMMUNIST ADVENTURISM TO GO UNCHECKED AND ATTRIBUTES ITS FAILURE  
TO WHAT IT TERMS "...THE SERVITUDE OF THE SENATE TO SOME LEFTIST  
LEANING SENATOR WHO PRONOUNCES SPEECHES AGAINST THE VIOLATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE EXCEPT WHERE THEY ARE MOST VIOLATED."  
IT ADDS THAT "TODAY ITS (US) INSTITUTIONS, WITH MANY PEOPLE OF  
SMALL IMPORT AND INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING, ARE PARALYZED BY  
INDECISION, DEFEATISM, AND TO SOME MEASURE, BY THE INFILTRATION  
OF THE ENEMY." IT CONCLUDES THAT DESPITE THE US'S  
MIGHT AND ITS INABILITY OR DETERMINATION TO USE IT, THE  
DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST WILL PREVAIL ALBEIT WITHOUT THE  
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UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP. THE EDITORIAL INTIMATES THAT THIS  
IS ONE MORE REASON WHY NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS FOR OTHER "DEMOCRACIES"  
ARE A MUST. IT LAYS FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DELETERIOUS  
OUTCOME ON THE US'S DOORSTEP.

3. COMMENT: "ABC"'S EDITORIAL IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT  
HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FEW LEADING PAPERS WHICH HAVE PRETTY MUCH KEPT

OUT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAY. WHETHER ONE AGREES WITH "ABCZJS  
ARGUMENTS, IT SEEMS TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF SOME OF THE MODERATE  
MAINSTREAM ELEMENTS OF THE COLORADO PARTY WHO ARE  
USUALLY NOT GIVEN VOCIFEROUS PRONOUNCEMENTS.  
WHITE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, THE PRESS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014